

THE OAK LEAF

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River Protection Increased By Easements

Over five hundred feet along the Bantam River have been added to the protected area with a new easement given by Harold A. Schwartz. The Litchfield Land Trust arranged the agreement with the owner, which brings the total river frontage of easements and fee holdings of The Conservancy to over three and a third miles.

The painstaking work of gaining permanent protection for the riverbanks started in 1962. Since then 26 segments along the Bantam River have been legally set aside for preservation.

Chapter Appoints Preserves Manager

The Chapter has appointed James Pepe of Winthrop as preserves manager. He will assist the preserve caretaker committees in creating and implementing preserve master plans and management programs.

Mr. Pepe, a science teacher in New Haven, has also worked for the last three years as a forest ranger at Cockaponset

PRESIDENT HERE SEPTEMBER 30

The Chapter will hold its annual membership meeting on Sunday, September 30th at the home of Dr. and Mrs. David Marshall, Pumpkin Hill Road, Ledyard. Patrick F. Noonan, the new president of TNC, will be the speaker. He was appointed to the office by the national Board of Governors earlier this year. He had served as director of operations and as a vice-president.

The meeting will begin at 1:00. Details of the meeting will be mailed to members later this month. Do reserve the date, to hear our top executive and to elect chapter officers.

state forest. He is a member of the Deep River Conservation Commission. His new job with the Chapter will start in September and will be on a part time basis

Mr. and Mrs. Newell Rogers have given TNC a conservation easement to half a mile of land along both banks of Kent Falls Brook at their home in Warren. While retaining ownership, the Rogers have established a nature preserve. Now the land will remain protected from building, dumping or destruction.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers hope their action will inspire other landowners along the brook to take similar steps. Kent Falls Brook is one of the most scenic streams in the state. It is still unpolluted, and the wildlife in the surroundings is typical of undisturbed New England forests.

The acreage includes a small bog with the special ecological features of such areas, as well as rock ledges, excellent breeding grounds for copperhead snakes. The land was scientifically evaluated for the Chapter by Robert Riedeman. Pond Mountain Trust, as well as neighbors gave support to the Rogers' action.

except for the summer months. He will meet with members of preserve management committees at the forthcoming regional meetings.

DENNIS FARM PRESERVE SET UP IN POMFRET

Colonel Edward B. Dennis of Pomfret has given The Conservancy about 380 acres in Pomfret, establishing the organization's first holding in the northeastern corner of Connecticut.

The new Dennis Farm Preserve is foremost a mature stand of northern hardwoods, such as oak, hickory, birch and maple. A few evergreens are scattered

through the land, including some spruce, white and red pine and hemlock. The forest has a thick undergrowth of mountain laurel, providing hospitable habitat for an abundant deer population.

The land is mostly gently rolling. It has steep, rocky hillsides on its eastern border, the bank of Mashamoquet Brook, and sand terraces adjacent to Lyon Brook. The

extensive acreage also covers several swamps and some active beaver ponds.

The Dennis family has deep-rooted ties to this part of the state. Mrs. Myon B. Smith, the Colonel's sister, and presently a resident of Arlington, Virginia served a liaison role between the Colonel and The Conservancy.

CONservaTION

By Thomas A. Gaines
Chairman, Conn. Chapter

Connecticut is the only Nature Conservancy chapter whose by-laws limit its chairman to two annual terms. As my second one ends, I am convinced that it is desirable for a volunteer agency to have a continuing change of command. It assures the organization an enrichment that comes with different approaches, varying styles.

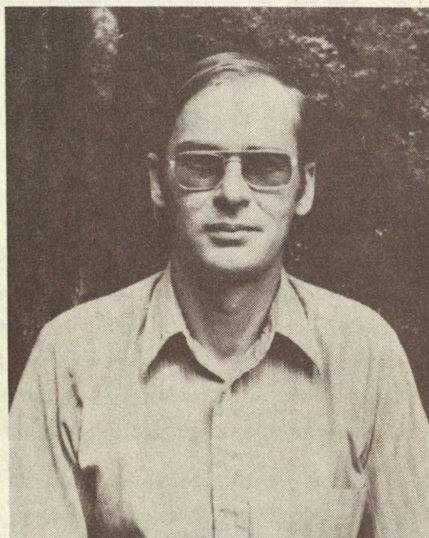
When I began almost two years ago, I set down my idea of what the chapter's goals should be during this period. Some were reached in full, some in part; others remain undone. Whatever was accomplished was the result of a collaborative effort on the part of trustees, caretaker committees, volunteers and friends.

The objectives were: 1. *To direct the land preservation mechanism toward specific localities in the state.* One means to this end was the preparation of a priority map; a campaign is underway to save as many of these areas as possible. 2. *To expand land management beyond the monitoring function.* Regional meetings with preserve management committees are currently being held to acquaint them with the new preserve management manual. 3. *To increase the chapter membership.* This goal remains substantially unfulfilled. 4. *To improve the use of our available human resources.* Several steps were taken: The trustees resolved a number of matters by studying proposed policy statements in advance of meetings. A state procedural manual was prepared. A salaried staff consisting of an executive secretary, a warden and a part time secretary was employed thus relieving the officers and trustees of administrative duties and permitting them to address themselves to such matters as policy and planning. 5. *Fund raising to pay for operating expenses.* Several foundations and individuals made large grants and

donations. An endowment fund was begun. In addition, a \$100 Acorn campaign was initiated which has enlisted 65 subscribers to date. 6. *Pay off the chapter's only sizeable debt—Buttermilk Falls.* This was done. 7. *To place our more significant holdings under the protective umbrella of the state's Natural Area program.* None were so designated. 8. *To see a bill enacted which would relieve our properties of the burden of improvement assessments.* This bill was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor this spring. 9. *Finally, to attempt to have the national staff in Arlington treat the chapters as something other than step-children.* (90 per cent of non-government cooperative preservation is carried out by the chapters.) The jury is still out on this one.

If I were starting as chairman at this time, I would set the following goals for the next two years: 1. To make our acquisition and preservation program more aggressive, in part by bringing state banks into the picture. 2. To see that each preserve develops a master plan. 3. To increase educational use of Nature Conservancy lands. 4. To work with the national office in developing a membership campaign program.

Another clause in the chapter by-laws calls for the two previous chairmen to remain as trustees. Accordingly, I look forward to making whatever contribution I can in working with this fine board.



Jim Pepe, Preserves Manager

The Nature Conservancy

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Regional Meetings

The second regional preserve management meeting was held July 22 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Plehn in Litchfield. Its purpose was to review the new Preserve Management Manual, and to begin work in creating master plans and management programs for the individual preserves.

Preserves represented at the meeting numbered fifteen. They were: Aton Forest Preserve, Colebrook Preserve, Sile Hill Pond Preserve and Walcott Preserve—Patrick Grossman. Harry C. Barnes Memorial Nature Center—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corbeil, Bristol. Bantam river easements and Buell Preserve—Mrs. Eric Plehn. Juniper Hill Preserve and William and Mary Wood—Dr. Joseph Hetzel, Middlebury. Buttermilk Falls—Robert Tolles, Terryville. Pond Mountain Trust—Paul Dooley, Kent. Robert Riedeman, Thomas Babbitt and Sidney R. Kennedy also attended.

The next regional preserve management meeting will be held in the southeastern section of the state, on September 16 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Goodwin, Dolbia Hill Road, East Haddam. The meeting will begin at 2:00.

Environmental Action Fund

Note: This page is given over to the Environmental Action Fund as part of a series to acquaint Conservancy members with valuable sister organizations.

The Environmental Action Fund has begun its fourth year as the statewide, publicly supported environmental lobby for Connecticut.

During its third year, all of the priority legislation which it supported was passed. This sounds like a boast—and it would be if we or anyone else thought that the 1973 session of the state legislature had completely wrapped up the job of guaranteeing Connecticut citizens a clean environment and a permanently high quality of life. But as we all know, there is still much work to be done.

FUND GOALS

The Environmental Action Fund has two principle goals: first, to maintain a registered lobby in Hartford which is at the service of all groups and individuals concerned with environmental matters in Connecticut, and second, to keep these groups and individuals up-to-date on legislative and governmental developments affecting the environment through a newsletter and other timely communications.

We are supported by contributions which are tax deductible *only* up to the limit of \$100 allowable for political contributions

If any reader would like to receive our newsletter, please write or call us at Box 312, Guilford, Conn. 06437, or 453-4371.

under the present federal tax code. In other words, we are, as a registered lobby, a politically active service organization which can do and say things that garden clubs, sportsmen's groups, the Nature Conservancy, local land trusts and many other tax-exempt organizations cannot say or do.

POLITICS

The Environmental Action Fund is politically bi-partisan; the Advisory Board is pretty evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. We are pleased to add that so far, environmental legislation has not fallen victim to partisan politics here in Connecticut.

During the past three sessions of the legislature the Environmental Action Fund has paid modest fees to two young environmentalists who acted as our registered lobbyists.

Both these young people will be backstopped by Bill Moore, a former State

Senator, and other members of the Advisory Board who serve without pay.

FUND PHILOSOPHY

The operating philosophy of the Environmental Action Fund is to work within the so-called system by locating and mustering those forces which appear to have practical solutions for some of our environmental problems. Name-calling and blame-fixing are totally defensive and therefore negative political actions; they may resolve some of our feelings of guilt, or desires for revenge, but they seldom contribute to progress along any path accepted as desirable by a majority of the public.

If there were only one clearcut path to environmental improvement, there would be no need for an environmental lobby in Connecticut; however, wherever there is choice (i.e. freedom) there is politics, and political action is often required to produce results.



The Chapter is making a film about itself. Shown is the crew, 'all students at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. From left to right, Suhail Mukhtar, director, Neal Marshad, cameraman and Tim Gavagan, sound.

The Nature Conservancy, 151 Brookdale Rd.
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Membership Classes



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Patron*	\$1000	Contributing	\$25
Sponsor*	\$500	Family	\$15
Guarantor	\$100	Subscribing	\$10
Supporting	\$50	Junior (18)	\$5

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$300
• (Includes Life Membership)



Cascade on west branch of Bantam river. Scene at William Buell Natural Area in Litchfield.

Pix by Richard Wurts

One Day in the Life of a Preserve Management Committee Member

On May 12, 1973, approximately 65 children, five and six years old, came out for a "Nature Study" trip from the Park Avenue Christian Church Day School in New York City. They were accompanied by teachers and parents.

The children had prepared for the trip by observing changes in frog eggs and seeds which they planted and other simple experiments. Each child came with a sheet of paper on which were pictures of things for him to look for: ducks and their babies, young fiddlehead ferns, dogwood and apple blossoms, salamanders, frogs, snakes and turtles.

The day was structured a bit like a treasure hunt. In groups of four or five

children and one adult, the whole area of the Hubbard preserve, plus the more accessible part of the Delacorte sanctuary were explored with huge enjoyment and squeals of discovery. Even the parents were amazed at what was before them.

The weather cooperated beautifully, and only one child had to be fished out of the pond due to an overenthusiastic search for tadpoles.

1973 is the third consecutive year that children from this school have visited the Hubbard preserve, with the Delacorte acreage an added draw this spring.

*G.H. McCabe, Preserve Committee,
Chauncey Keep Hubbard Nature
Preserve*

GLASTONBURY ELECTS

The Glastonbury sub-chapter has elected Clyde S. Brooks chairman for 1973-74. Other officers elected were: Edward P. Tucker, vice-chairman; Miss Beatrice Coward, secretary; and Mrs. William C. Haggis, treasurer. H. William Reed, Jr. and Alexander Zihrup were elected trustees for three years. Bernard W. Funk, Richard J. Mihm, Ross C. Powell, Jr. and Peter Stern continue as trustees.

Reed also thanked all officers, trustees and members of the Cotton Hollow Preserve patrol, "Whose contributions of time and effort have made this year a successful one."

H. William Reed, Jr., out-going chairman, presented his annual report at the meeting. Highlights included helping the Chapter in its support of a bill to relieve nature preserves of assessments for betterments (bill passed) and taking over responsibilities for Spiderweed Preserve in Middletown while Connecticut trustee Dana Waring was out of the country.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Henry Lord of New Haven, a high school senior, has given devoted service to the Chapter all summer. He commuted to the Stamford office two days every week with executive secretary Charles Scott.

Mrs. John H. Quayle of Stamford has put in many volunteer hours of office work in the past months.



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